The VIPER Newsletter 4ᵗʰ Quarter 2015

As part of our communications effort to keep everyone informed of our progress, we will be distributing a quarterly newsletter via email and posting a copy of it on the VIPER website at www.ncdps.gov/VIPER. If you would like to contact us, you can email us at VIPER@NCSHP.ORG or call 1-888-92-VIPER.

Quick Facts (Tanya)
- 241 total sites planned for statewide coverage
    1. 211 sites constructed and on-the-air
    2. 6 sites are fully funded and under construction
    3. Funding for remaining site construction is ongoing
- Number of emergency responding agencies making up the # of users – 314 agencies
- VIPER estimated to cost $206.5M to complete
    1. $181.5M funded to date (includes $7M R for tower construction in FY15-16)
    2. Pending: Additional $25M left to be funded for site construction
- VIPER maintenance and support costs
    1. $7.5M once completed
    2. Current funding = $5.3M recurring (includes $2.8M Recurring starting FY13-14)
    3. Pending: Additional $2.2M recurring to effectively provide maintenance and support once build-out is complete
- Challenges
    1. In moving forward with construction of new tower sites, the challenge will be to get fully executed leases prior to site construction.

Legislative funding for site construction (Tanya)
- Through Senate Bill 402, VIPER has been provided site construction funding starting in Fiscal Year 2014-2015.
    1. $7M (Recurring) funds for VIPER Tower Construction
- A recurring $7M funding has been provided for in FY15-16 for VIPER Tower Construction.

Tower Construction Update
- A new Barium Springs tower is complete and in service.
- The Potato Knob site in Swain County is online.

7.14 Upgrade
- The 7.14 upgrade is a system-wide upgrade that allows for the increase in number of sites per zone, enables conventional resources to be shared across zones and sets up the system to enable us to migrate from Quantar base stations to GTRs seamlessly. The upgrade was completed in December and all systems are operating normally. We now have the ability to import radio ID and alias databases into the zone controllers. With this said, this is a reminder to ALL counties and Federal/State Agencies that your annual true up document with all

current radio ID assignments is due to the Patrol by COB on Friday 29, January 2016. We will be working during the month of February to clean up the database resulting in the database being locked for activation unless a valid ID request is received by the NOC.

Radio reprogramming (Rebanding/P25)

- Second Touch programming continues to move forward. We have encountered some counties and agencies that have already completed a second touch of their equipment. The FCC requires us to document that every radio has been cleared of the old, pre-rebanded channels. We are currently working with the FCC to determine what type of documentation is required to show that all radios in NC do not have pre-rebanded channels in them. More information will be forthcoming.
- During second touch, we found several vendors putting the wrong ID's back in the radios. They have taken out the old 4.1 system and talkgroups but used the old 4.1 IDs in the current P25 system. **<u>At this time, no radio on the network should have a 4.1 ID.</u>** When second touch is performed, please make sure that your agency's assigned P25 IDs are programmed in the radios and **<u>NOT</u>** 4.1 IDs. 4.1 IDs are no longer valid on the system and radios programmed with 4.1 IDs will no longer work. P25 IDs are now assigned by the VIPER POC for your county and questions regarding P25 IDs should be directed to the county VIPER POC.
- Reconfiguration dollars are only available to program end user radios that are primary users of the VIPER system. The funds will <u>not</u> cover the reconfiguration of radios covered by another licensee's frequency reconfiguration agreement (FRA).
- Each VIPER POC should have received a document specifically outlining what items are covered in the Second Touch programming agreement.

VIPER ID status

- VIPER provided each county point of contact (POC) or state/federal agency POC with a block of assigned VIPER ID's.
- Counties/agencies must submit a completed VIPER ID form containing all of the relevant information, including the VIPER ID pulled from their respective list to VIPER for activation.
- VIPER POC's should maintain their inventory and will be required to submit an annual "true-up" document to VIPER in January of each year. The "true-up" document for 2016 will be due no later than Friday, 29 January 2016 and should have been forwarded to VIPER-activate@ncshp.org.
- Updated instructions along with a new form are available online at http://www.ncdps.gov/viper and click on the Forms tab.

VIPER Approved Radios

- 2016 will see the continuation of additional radio vendors and products being approved for VIPER. Currently Motorola, EF Johnson, Kenwood, Harris, Tait and BK Relm have approved products for use on the VIPER system. New radios from vendors for consideration were due no later than 30 September 2015 of each subsequent year so that testing and evaluations can be completed prior to the start of the new calendar year.

High Windy tower

- Construction is complete except for final electrical work and inspection which is schedule for Q1 2016 barring any weather or unforeseen delays.

System Health

- The System Health is a new section that we plan to provide with each newsletter to update our stakeholders, users and partners as to how the VIPER system is doing. These statistics are taken directly from the system.

1. System count

Users (actual radio ID's, consoles not incl.)	78,000
Trunked channels	1,410
Conventional channels	399
Talk groups	4,219
Comm centers tied directly to VIPER	22

2. Busies: The percent of busies compares the number of busies vs. the number of PTTs on the system. Acceptable industry standard is 3% busies for a system. Below is VIPER's system health as it relates to the percentage of busies that we get on the system.

	PTT average	% Busy
Daily average	250,000	0.02%
Monthly average	7,500,000	0.03%

Partners/Primary Users

Alamance County *	Durham County	Pasquotank County
Beaufort County	Edgecombe County	Pender County *
Bertie County	Gaston County	Perquimans County
Bladen County *	Gates County	Pitt County *
Brunswick County *	Graham County	Rockingham County *
Buncombe County	Granville County *	Sampson County *
Burke County	Halifax County	Stanly County
Cabarrus County	Harnett County *	Stokes County *
Caldwell County *	Hertford County	Surry County *
Carteret County	Hoke County	Swain County
Catawba County *	Hyde County *	Town of Chapel Hill
Cherokee County	Iredell County *	Town of Creedmoor *
Chowan County	Lee County	Town of Hudson
City of Asheville	Lenoir County	Town of Plymouth
City of Lenoir	Lincoln County	Town of Seven Springs

City of Mooresville	Macon County	Town of Swan Quarter
Clay County	Martin County	Tyrrell County
Cleveland County	Mecklenburg County	Vance County *
Columbus County	Mitchell County	Wake County
Craven County	Nash County *	Washington County
Cumberland County *	New Hanover County	Wilkes County
Dare County	Orange County *	Yancey County
Duplin County *		

* These VIPER partners are using VIPER as their primary means of communications